

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 were pending when last examined. With this Response, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 12-14, and 18, added new claims 19 and 20, and cancelled Claims 9 and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer. The amendments to and cancellation of the claims are expressed in the detailed listing above.

**Listing of References**

The Examiner states, "The listing of references in the specification (pages 2 and 12-13) is not a proper information disclosure statement.... Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered."

Applicants acknowledge the requirement for an Information Disclosure Statement to have the various references mentioned in the Specification of the present Application considered. Applicants respectfully note that such an Information Disclosure Statement listing references from the Specification was filed on August 16, 2001 and the listed references considered by the Examiner on July 2, 2003 as indicated by the Examiner's initials and signature on the US PTO Form 1449 returned with the Office Action dated July 18, 2003.

**Claim Objections**

Claims 9 and 15 stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Claims 9 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering moot any rejection of these claims.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112**

Claims 2, 8, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

which Applicants regard as the invention. According to the Examiner, "Claims 2, 8, and 14 recite the limitation 'the shared document'. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim."

Claims 2, 8, and 14 have been amended to correct this minor informality. As such, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of these claims under 5 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Furthermore, each of Claims 6, 12, and 18 have also been amended to correct minor informalities.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

Claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Salesky et al. (USPN 6,343,313). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 as amended recites in pertinent part, "A computer system for distributed collaborative computing, the system comprising: ... a computer program executable by the server computers, wherein the computer program comprises computer instructions for: conducting an on-line conference among an arbitrary number of the client computers connected to an arbitrary number of the server computers over the global-area network and the high-speed direct connection link; assigning a respective unique identifier to each page of a document stored on one of the client computers for viewing on an arbitrary number of other client computers; and transmitting at least a portion of the respective unique identifiers for the pages of the document to each of the arbitrary number of other client computers so that the same pages can be viewed at each of the arbitrary number of other client computers."

Such claimed invention is not disclosed or taught by Salesky et al. Salesky et al. discloses a computer conferencing system in which information is shared between and among client computers by way of screen "snap-shots." That is, "During a conferencing session, presenter client 12 takes periodic 'snap-shots' of the application screen image contained within a rectangular boundary determined by the presenter, breaks the screen shot into smaller rectangular blocks, compares these blocks to information from a

previous screen shot.” Salesky et al., col. 7, lns. 35-40. As such, the system of Salesky et al. handles information for a document as pictures or images.

In contrast, Applicants’ invention works in a completely different way in its treatment of documents. As recited in Claim 1, the Applicants’ invention operates by “assigning a respective unique identifier to each page of a document stored on one of the client computers for viewing on an arbitrary number of other client computers; and transmitting at least a portion of the respective unique identifiers for the pages of the document to each of the arbitrary number of other client computers so that the same pages can be viewed at each of the arbitrary number of other client computers.” This is advantageous in that, for example, “During document viewing, the presenter may choose to skip one or more pages in the document being viewed.” See Specification of present Application, para. 86. Such ability to skip pages would not be present in the system of Salesky et al. As such, Claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference.

Likewise, Applicant’s Claim 7, as amended, recites in pertinent part, “A method of operating a distributed collaborative computing system comprising a plurality of server computers, the method comprising: ... assigning a respective unique identifier to each page of a document stored on one of the client computers for viewing on an arbitrary number of other client computers; and transmitting at least a portion of the respective unique identifiers for the pages of the document to each of the arbitrary number of other client computers so that the same pages can be viewed at each of the arbitrary number of other client computers.” Applicant’s Claim 13, as amended, recites in pertinent part, “A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program executable by a plurality of server computers, the computer program comprising computer instructions for: ... assigning a respective unique identifier to each page of a document stored on one of the client computers for viewing on an arbitrary number of other client computers; and transmitting at least a portion of the respective unique identifiers for the pages of the document to each of the arbitrary number of other client computers so that the same pages can be viewed at each of the arbitrary number of other client computers.” Claims 7 and 13 are patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1, 7, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and to allow these claims. Each of Claims 2-4, 8-11, and 14-18 depends from one of Claims 1, 7, and 13 and includes further limitations. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 2-4, 8-11, and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn and these claims be allowed.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

Claims 6, 12, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salesky et al. and Larson et al. (USPN 5,907,324). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 6, 12, and 18 depend from Claims 1, 7, and 13, respectively, and thus by virtue of this dependency include limitations not disclosed or taught by Salesky et al. as discussed above. Furthermore, such limitations are not taught or suggested by Larson et al., either taken alone or in combination with Salesky et al. As such, the cited references do not render obvious Applicants' Claims 6, 12, and 18.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of Claims 6, 12, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and to allow these claims.

**New Claims**

Claims 19 and 20 have been added to further define aspects of the Applicant's invention. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 19 and 20 are fully supported by the Specification of the present Application as originally filed, contain no new matter, and are patentable over the cited references.

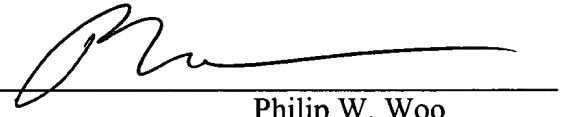
**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-1200.

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